



**GOVERNOR'S ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
General Meeting – January 24, 2013  
10:00 A.M.**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ

**Members Present:** Dr. Craig Barrett, Superintendent John Huppenthal, Tim Carter, Pearl Esau, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Glen Hamer, Jake Logan, Diane McCarthy, Jaime Molera, Jacob Moore, Colleen Niccum, Kathy Player, Merl Waschler, and Dr. Jim Zaharis

**Members Absent:** Dr. Tom Anderes, Rep. Jeff Dial, Rep. Doris Goodale, Amanda McAdams, Onnie Shekerjian, Sandra Watson, and Sen. Kimberly Yee

**Staff Present:** Rebecca Gau, and Dale Frost

**1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions**

Dr. Craig Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced the purposes of the meeting, which was to receive updates on the Department of Education's IT & Broadband request, the Governor's Performance funding proposal, and the Arizona Ready Report Card. Dr. Barrett offered an update from the Arizona We Want 2.0 rollout. Dr. Barrett reviewed the goals of this group which were;

- Fund and implement common core standards and the PARCC assessment by 2014/2015
- Increase Arizona's education performance to beat state higher education National goals
- Create education funding and investment models that are tied to student, teacher, and school performance
- Address school funding equity issues
- Create a comprehensive data system

Dr. Barrett called for an approval of the December 19, 2012 Council meeting minutes as presented. Diane McCarthy moved for the approval, Tim Carter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Reports & Updates**

**Arizona Department of Education**

Dr. Barrett introduced Supt. Huppenthal with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Supt. Huppenthal then introduced Dr. Jennifer Johnson to update the Council on the PARCC Board. Dr. Johnson advised the Council in these five policy areas;

- Governance Structure
- Testing Time
- Test Cost
- Mode of Delivery
- Technology

Dr. Barrett asked if Arizona took position on test time. Dr. Johnson advised that Arizona did support the position on shorter test times with the focus on valid assessment results. Tim Carter asked if districts will be able to be reimbursed for funds they have already put toward technology costs for PARCC. Dale Frost with the Governor's office advised that these issues are still being reviewed in the Legislature and no answer is yet to be had. Jacob Moore inquired if ADE knew the extent in which schools are ready for the needed technology of PARCC testing. Supt. Huppenthal advised that surveys are ongoing in this area. Pear Esau asked if students had the technology literacy for the online tests. Supt Huppenthal advised that there are indeed concerns in that area. Dr. Barrett summed up advising that the continuing focus of the Council should be;

- Technology investments
- Infrastructure concerns
- Student computer literacy concerns

### **Governor's Office of Education Innovation**

Dr. Barrett introduced Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI). Ms. Gau pointed out some key items in the education portion of the Governor's policy document that was released after the State of the State address which ties into the Council's work. Ms. Gau then advised the Council that the GOEI is currently working on an Executive Order for broadband work in Arizona and that work is intended to ensure that schools will have capability for the PARCC exam. Ms. Gau then gave a brief update on social media for Arizona Ready. Ms. Gau asked for feedback from the Council members on what they would like to hear in future GOEI updates. Members advised that they are interested in social exposure updates for Arizona Ready including updates on promotion in areas outside of the Arizona Ready website and Facebook page.

### **Arizona State Board for Charter Schools**

Dr. Barrett introduced Jake Logan with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS). Mr. Logan updated the Council on the development of their performance framework dashboard for charter schools. Mr. Logan advised that this new dashboard is currently being used for charter renewals and expansion. This dashboard also allows charters to review this information to help them understand their standing. Mr. Logan advised that currently the dashboards are not yet publicly accessible, but the dashboards are available to the charters that are up for renewal this year.

### **3. Update: IT & Broadband**

Dr. Barrett introduced Mark Masterson with ADE. Mr. Masterson introduced Ed Young, also with ADE, to discuss the Arizona Education Learning and Accountability System (AELAS). Mr. Young reviewed with the Council;

- The importance of AELAS
- ADE's plans for implementation

- Timeline
- Costs for the system,
  - \$40 million over 3 years of requested State budget funds
  - \$143 million over 5 years total cost
- Plans for a district opt-in program.

Mr. Young then introduced Dr. Don Covey with Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA) to review their role in the AELAS opt-in system pilot program. Supt Huppenthal advised that ADE feels very positive that the opt-in program will be a success since ADE would be able to save districts money once the system is in place. Dale Frost with the Governor's Office asked if schools would have to pay for the core systems. Mr. Masterson advised that the opt-in cost would only be for those options listed in the opt-in service portion and that costs would not be assessed to schools for the core systems. Pearl Esau then asked about the performance management piece. Ms Esau asked if it is the intention that the formative assessment piece of AELAS be adopted by districts. Mr. Masterson advised that the district or school principal would be able to use the formative assessment system to help the teacher in reaching assessment goals. Ms. Esau then asked if opting into AELAS will ADE need to make sure that transition is available and that training is involved for data use. Mr. Masterson explained that since this is an opt-in system the districts that would want to use the system for formative assessment already have buy-in for its use. Dr. Rufus Glasper then inquired what type of requirement would districts have to stay in the compact or can they opt-in one year and the out the next. Mr. Masterson informed that Council that this type of consideration has not yet been worked out and further explained that since ADE is working on a partnership they do not want districts to feel that they are locked into a system but that they have an ownership of the system. Jacob Moore asked what option might be available to those districts that cannot afford to opt-in to the system when the formative assessment piece is so critical to common core success. Supt. Huppenthal commended Mr. Moore for getting to the heart of the real value of this type of system and advised that ADE is working to get the opt-in costs for districts down to below \$6 per student to allow all districts this functionality at a reasonable cost. Dr. Jim Zaharis commented that if the Council believes that Arizona needs a system that integrates all these pieces into one data system then do we believe ADE can do this, and can we give them the resources to get it done. Dr. Zaharis advised that the business community believes that the capacity to get this done at ADE is there so what can the Council support over what timeline to get AELAS implemented. Dr. Zaharis then remarked that he hopes that the functionality is being built into the system to allow Charters access to AELAS. Supt. Huppenthal advised that the credibility issue is a concern due to past projects. Supt. Huppenthal said that ADE needs an outside entity review to help build credibility, and that they have had Gardner and Gates already review the AELAS concept. Furthermore they are looking into getting a deeper look into the system. Rebecca Gau commented that it was great to see ideas on a big vision and had a question on timing. Ms. Gau said that at the data quality conference, teachers were asking for dashboards to get data, even it is last year's data, into the hands of teachers. Ms Gau then asked where that is in the timeline, and is there a plan to get data to teachers out sooner while ADE is working on the bigger picture. Mr. Masterson explained that ADE works with 15 different vendors and it would be a 3-5 month project to get all the information from the different vendors for such a request. Dr. Barrett then summarized with five points;

- There is a lot of money spent thru LEAs to try to achieve this,
- The State mandates items which requires a data base
- Not currently funding to build data base and
- To be currently funded ADE would need \$20 million a year for 2 years to build
- Is there another plan for a database

Dr. Barrett then asked if there were any other comments from the Council. Dr. Zaharis asked that the Council look into how to get the system fully financed.

#### **4. Update: Education Budget & Performance Funding**

Dr. Barrett introduced Dale Frost with the Governor's Office. Mr. Frost gave a brief overview of the Governor's proposed budget which covered;

- Common Core Implementation
- PARCC Exams
- K-12 Performance Funding
- Career and Technical Education
- School Safety
- Data System
- K-12 Formula Reform
- School Facilities Board
- Universities
- University Performance Funding
- Community Colleges

Dr. Barrett advised that he felt the Council would support the performance funding and the performance development piece of the proposed budget. Dr. Barrett did inquire about the difference in funding for the data system. Mr. Frost advised that the Governor is behind the data system but it is difficult to get the full funding. Mr. Frost further explained that Legislatures have difficulty in getting buy-in from their constituency for increased funding and that it is hard to see the improvements that ADE has made from a Policy makers point of view. Finally Mr. Frost advised that the Governor's Office feels that this proposal has the best chance of getting funding to ADE for the data system.

#### **5. Update: Report Card Updates & Changes**

In the interest of time, Dr. Barrett asked that this update be moved to the February agenda.

#### **6. Council Comments & Next steps**

Dr Barrett then asked the Council for possible future agenda items. Some items mentioned were;

- Discuss possible alternative funding sources for the data system
- NAU Education College Presentation
- District by District report card on common core implementation
- Community College update

#### **7. Call to the Public**

Eileen Sigmund updated Council on the new Center for Student Achievement report which is timed with the kickoff of Nation School Choice Week. Ms. Sigmund explained that the Center provides professional development to teachers and states as well as data analysis. Ms. Sigmund advised that this inaugural report examines open enrollment, specifically what schools students are choosing and how those choices are paying off.

#### **8. Adjourn**

With no further business before the Council, Merl Waschler motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kathy Player and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.